Dave Singer
The future of the RSL?

ANZAC Day 2014
Around the State
Welcome to your new Listening Post!

Welcome to the first edition of The Listening Post in its new magazine format.

We have shifted from the newspaper to magazine to attract more readers and to reduce our overall costs. This edition encourages ex-service men and women to consider joining the RSL as part of our goal of rebuilding membership. It also provides comprehensive coverage of ANZAC Day, which saw record numbers of people attending services throughout Western Australia.

This is your magazine and we welcome your ideas and comments.

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Deadline for next edition: August 22, 2014

If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs should be colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.

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Welcome to your new Listening Post!
I have vivid memories of my time spent in Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, even though I have been out of uniform for a few years.

Like most veterans, what defined my time in the Australian Defence Force is the ANZAC spirit itself – mateship; the bond formed between comrades-in-arms.

I guess I looked for it in The Returned & Services League and was shocked to discover that I was the youngest at my sub branch. The next youngest were the Vietnam era which is an enormous age difference.

I know that I used to think of the RSL as a bunch of old blokes sitting around the boozer reminiscing about the world wars. Now that I am an active member, I can tell you that this is far from being the case.

The RSL is in reality, a group of ex-service men and women who look out for one another, and take care of those who are struggling.

It provides assistance with pensions and an advocacy and welfare service. It cares for families of veterans and of the many ADF personnel who have been wounded or left debilitated.

When you join the RSL you are not doing it for yourself, you are doing it to become a part of, and to contribute to, an organisation which helps those who have not been so lucky.

Thankfully, I left the Army with no problems, mental or physical. However, that may change as the years pass by and knowing that the RSL is there for me if things go south is terrific for my peace-of-mind.

The RSL understands that there is a need for it to change to accommodate the busy lives of younger veterans, and it is willing to change.

However these changes can only be made from the inside, which is why it’s so important for younger members to become involved. The RSL relies on a strong membership base to be effective.

Signing up to serve our great nation is inherently dangerous, and we all know just how much loss we have suffered in recent years.

Every member of the ADF sticks by their mates, so please, even if you are no longer in uniform, stick by them at the RSL.

Our front cover picture is of former Afghanistan veteran Dave Singer, a member of North Beach RSL, who marched with about 30 other younger veterans at the front of the ex-service contingent for the ANZAC Day parade through the streets of Perth.

“It’s the first time I have marched and I was overwhelmed by the gratitude shown to veterans by the community,” Dave said afterwards.

“Seeing the streets of Perth packed to bursting point was a really moving experience. I saw an ex-officer from Afghanistan and convinced him to march. Afterwards, he expressed similar feelings to my own, and was grateful to have had the opportunity to lead the parade as a younger veteran”. Dave was also a keynote speaker at the North Beach Dawn Service attended by over 5,000 people.

He was born in Subiaco in 1990 and attended Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School after which he completed his secondary education at John XXIII College in Mount Claremont. Shortly after completing grade 12 he enlisted in the Australian Army, at the age of 18 on 10 March 2008. He served with 5 Platoon, Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Afghanistan from July 2009 until February 2010 after which he completed the reconnaissance course and was posted to reconnaissance platoon until his discharge in late 2011. Now 24, he is currently studying at the University of Western Australia, where he will major in psychology and French. He hopes to study medicine as a post-graduate and work as a surgeon.
Sunset Service success

Was it the poignancy of little children laying floral tributes or the haunting images of grieving families remembering loved ones?

Whatever the reasons, the introduction this year of Sunset Services at the Kings Park Memorial were a resounding success.

State President, Graham Edwards AM, congratulated the organisers and said, given the trial’s immediate success, it would continue next year.

The services were held from Easter Sunday until the eve of ANZAC Day. At 5pm, for five days, these simple and informal services were held at the State War Memorial Flame of Remembrance. The services lasted up to 20 minutes, were always attended by senior RSL and military personnel, a piper and bugler, and drew up to 600 members of the public.

On each occasion, a two-minute reading about one or two fallen soldiers was offered and families that had previously registered with the RSL laid wreaths.

These were inclusive services, so other members of the public were also invited to place floral tributes – and they did. Little children, large families, proud parents, all took the opportunity.

The services, formally named ‘The Last Post’, were spontaneously supported by the public and that is obvious on the RSLWA’s own Facebook Page. One Facebook fan, Sue Epps, says: “Well done, gives the future generations who are too young to attend Dawn Services a chance to participate. Hope that it now becomes an annual event. Lest we Forget.” Or Norma Karanski, “Well done RSL, hope you do this every year.” Anne Orton, “Please hold these again next year. We will be there again”. Chantelle Cummins, “Very moving. I hope you do these each year.”

There are many more supportive comments. One of the most poignant moments occurred on ANZAC Eve, when the RSL held its final Sunset Service and the readings commemorated Special Air Service Trooper Joshua Porter, killed in the HMAS Kanimbla helicopter crash in 2006, and Private Jamie Clark, who died on patrol in the Solomon Islands on March 10, 2005, falling into a deep shaft while searching a cave for a local militia’s weapons cache.

Collectors’ stamps and coins released

Australia Post and Perth Mint have just launched a series of ANZAC Centenary stamps and coins.

Perth Mint released the first in a series of coins featuring Australian posters of World War One. One example seeks to invigorate enlistment with ‘A Call from the Dardanelles’ poster which employs the theme of Australians fighting at Gallipoli. The poster featured a WWI digger in a slouch hat and a rising sun badge standing astride the Narrows, one foot on the Gallipoli Peninsula and the other on Asia Minor, calling out the Australian bush cry of ‘cooee’.

To commemorate the centenary of the beginning of WWI, Australia Post is releasing the first stamp issue in a five year series, designed to tell the chronological story of Australia’s involvement in the Great War.

Each of the five stamp issues has been developed in conjunction with the Australian War Memorial, who has provided brilliant photographs, and will focus on aspects relevant to that particular year of centenary, detailing key events, battles and individuals. We have some great stamp collector items available for giveaways which include first day covers, stamp packs and maxi cards. For more information email listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au or contact the Editor on 9287 3799!
The State Executive of the Returned & Services League of Western Australia has recommended a simpler management structure to achieve good governance.

The executive has acted because the existing management structure is outdated, cumbersome and unfair to Regional representatives.

At the moment, all Regional representatives are up for election in October this year and the remaining board members are due for election next year. While the State Executive is the senior management body, it meets only every three months, while the Board comprising the same members meets monthly without Regional representation. This greatly disadvantages the regions.

On Wednesday 30 April, the State Executive decided to act. It decided to recommend we combine the State Executive and the Board into one streamlined body of 11 people and to call an election of all positions.

If approved by sub branches an Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at ANZAC House on 2 August 2014 and there will be an election later this year for State President, Vice President, Treasurer and eight ordinary members.

Four ordinary members will be elected from a broadened metropolitan area and one will be elected from each of four new regional areas.

The new executive will then meet monthly – with everyone attending.

The State Executive also voted to recommend that Trustees remain part of the structure but their duties should be clearly defined.

ANZAC Day

I would like to briefly thank the hundreds of members and volunteers who put in an extraordinary effort for ANZAC Day 2014. The success of it was, without question, the greatest tribute we could possibly pay to those who have served our country.

State War Memorial

As State President and a Vietnam Veteran I am pleased to advise that the names of all Western Australian Vietnam Veterans Killed in Action are now properly inscribed on the State War Memorial 39 years after the war ended in 1975.

The names inscribed are a direct copy of the names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Blue Burridge, Trustee of that memorial, swears on his life they are correct.

It seems that the RSL in WA, as custodian of our Memorial, has now met the responsibility entrusted to us by these men who fell in that war and their families who continue to grieve their loss.

The names of the two peacekeepers Josh Porter and Jamie Clark were also added to the State War Memorial reflecting the change in policy adopted by RSL WA which is now in step with and reflects the policy of the AWM in relation to honouring our younger veterans killed whilst on deployment.

Not only does the addition of their names honour these young Australians, it also gives some comfort to their loved ones.

State President Graham Edwards said Ms Stewart had made a profound impact on the RSL and its services. This year, alone, Lotterywest had allocated nearly $1 million for ANZAC Day services.

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Lest We Forget
Huge interest in Albany

As many as 48,500 people could travel to Albany to honour the ANZACs at a series of commemorative events later this year.

From 30 October to 2 November, Albany will mark the 100th anniversary of the departure of the first convoy of Australian and New Zealand troops to the First World War.

The convoy departed from Albany on the morning of 1 November 1914. For many, Albany was their last sight of Australian soil.

The commemorative weekend will be the national launch of the 2014 – 2018 ANZAC Centenary commemorative period and includes the opening of the National ANZAC Centre.

According to Tourism WA, about 16,000 people from Perth have already made plans to stay with family and friends in the region, and based on research, 18,600 Great Southern residents have expressed an interest in taking part in the events.

Major restorative works on Mt Clarence, undertaken to help Albany prepare for the national launch, have been officially opened. The upgrades, to which the State Government provided $5.84million in funding, have transformed the Mt Clarence memorial precinct, doubling its capacity for the ANZAC Day dawn service to about 4,000 people.

The works led by the City of Albany have turned the precinct into a world class visitor destination for not only the upcoming ANZAC Centenary commemorations, but also into the future. Works included a refurbishment of the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, new landscaping, lighting and improved disability access.

The City of Albany and the Great Southern Development Commission also contributed funding towards the development of the new Padre White Lookout. Meanwhile, in Fremantle, members of the 11th Battalion AIF 13th Brigade are organising a function to commemorate the direct descendants of those who lost a family member in WW1 on Sunday 2 November.

They will be hosting a morning service at the Blackboy Hill site which was a military training camp used to house large numbers of Australian Imperial Force (AIF) troops before they left for the various battlefront locations in Europe and the Middle East.

They will then host a further service in Fremantle to commemorate the departure of the ships which left Gage Roads on 2 November, 1914.

For further information please contact Rodney Halcombe on 9384 3989 or 0407 916 114

Bits & Pieces...

by the CEO of RSLWA
Phil Orchard

Member recognition
It is that time of the year again when nominations for Life Membership and Meritorious Awards need to be considered. The criteria can be found at www.rslwhq.org.au/Membership/Applications-for-Awards.aspx and further information in Rule 10 of the Constitution. Nominations must be received by 31 July 2014.

RSL Money
I’m pleased to advise members that a special initiative called RSL Money has been launched. RSL Money is Australia’s only range of banking products that help support the sustained growth of the RSL movement. RSL Money is open to all RSL sub branch members and their partners.

The RSL and the Australian Defence Credit Union (ADCU) have partnered to provide a range of low cost, high value banking products that can make a real difference to the RSL and greater Defence community. Contributions raised from the RSL Money initiative go towards the RSL National Office and will help to keep RSL annual membership fees low. To find out more about this special offer, visit www.rslmoney.com.au or call 1300 000 775.
ANZAC spirit grows

The rolling momentum of ANZAC spirit spilt and flowed across the entire state of Western Australia this year, from Albany to Broome, Bellevue to Brookton, as people gathered under mostly overcast skies.

ANZAC Day crowds doubled in some regional towns like Albany and Port Kennedy as people took advantage of spectacular facilities and the unusual combination of holidays for Easter and ANZAC Day on succeeding weekends.

In Perth, the Governor, His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC, attended the Kings Park Dawn Service and was moved to say it was the best of many he had the honour of attending.

“The laser lighting, in the shape of the AIF badge, the two national anthems, Australian and New Zealand, so movingly and beautifully sung, were innovations which added to the dignity and solemnity of the occasion,” he wrote afterwards. For the first time, the Dawn Service at the State War Memorial was broadcast live by Channel 9.

Continued page 31
Michael Osenbaugh went through a private hell while serving for the Australian Army between 2006 and November 2010. He returned home depressed and found refuge in the Cockburn RSL, which he credits for saving his life.

Michael Osenbaugh was born in 1987 in Norfolk, Virginia. He grew up with two brothers and a sister in Coolbellup and Atwell, where he attended Atwell Primary and was inspired to enlist after learning about troubles in East Timor. Later, he attended South Fremantle High School until Year 10.

He enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 1 May 2006 and in November 2006 was posted to the 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment as an infantryman. These days he is getting counselling and preparing to return to work.

If you need help, contact your local RSL sub branch or RSL headquarters in Perth on 9287 3799.

Local RSL gave ‘me my life back’

By Michael Osenbaugh

My journey as an infantryman in East Timor and Iraq ultimately led me home to the RSL and to a place I now feel more comfortable.

It is not heroic or pretty. It began when I joined the Australian Regular Army on 20 May 2006 aged 18 and culminated in depression, feelings of anxiety and a build-up of rage.

I have found comfort in the RSL because it is established and experienced in dealing with my concerns and I can travel throughout Australia and get similar help and hospitality. Being a part of Cockburn RSL changed my life. After receiving help, I found other ways to serve my country.

I’m now a member of the Cockburn SES, South Coogee Bush Fire Brigade and I also volunteer at the Western Australian Army Museum in Fremantle. I have regained most of my pride and honour. On behalf of Cockburn RSL, I do school speeches and take part in the Cockburn ANZAC Day School Parade.

After signing with the Army I was posted to 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and in December 2006, I was placed with Alpha Company and posted to the Heli Pad in Dili.

Earlier in 2006, East Timor had suffered a mutiny in government and its army commander, Alfredo Reinado and his followers rebelled.

In February 2007, Blackhawk choppers inserted Alpha Company into a village called Same (pronounced “Sar-May”) and was tasked with blocking all roads into Reinado’s base.

We encountered enemy fire. To this day I can describe the first of a dozen bodies like I’m still there. Reinado escaped, but was killed months later while trying to ambush the President of East Timor.

Our main task was to patrol Dili’s suburbs where gangs often ran wild. Our base was once over-run by scared women and children looking for safety. Three men came in wounded; one with a slit throat who subsequently died.

Our deployment ended and we flew home to start training for Iraq and we were deployed in November 2007 to the sandy desert Tallil US Airbase, about 310km southeast of Baghdad. A month in, we were woken by the first of three bombs. One US soldier was killed. For me, that was a wake-up call that I was in a war.

We were attacked by indirect fire about every two or three weeks.

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RSL must innovate to build members

By John McCourt

There once was a time when I did not want to join the RSL - even at my more senior age. But I am damn glad I did. The very things that turned me off my sub branch provided me with a desire for change. And I was not alone.

I had - and have - the utmost respect for our older members but I wanted to be part of what such a fantastic institution could offer new members in the advent of our longest war that was Afghanistan and other recent conflicts.

To me, it is not just about young veterans or our older veterans. I suppose it’s also about someone like me. No spring chicken, I eventually got to serve my country later in life.

The WA Veteran Affairs Committee (WAVAC), is working to ensure our newer veterans view the RSL as a fraternity that is attractive to belong to. However, a fundamental prerequisite is that the RSL continues to be relevant; to not only move with the times but to innovate and to refresh its ‘core business’ of looking after colleagues in a friendly, collegiate and family environment.

The primary aim of the WAVAC is to continue to champion welfare and advocacy services - our core business - to veterans and services members and continue to improve on these services. I am enormously encouraged by those sub branches - including my own - that opt to erect family facilities such as playgrounds rather than extending bar space.

I am also encouraged by some great efforts being undertaken by sub branches to be much more inclusive and offer help where and when needed to newer as well as older members.

My committee is working hard to ensure the RSL continues to innovate with a professional and caring focus on welfare and advocacy, backed by camaraderie and friendship and a desire to gather with like-minded souls.

* John McCourt is Chair of the WA Veteran Affairs Committee and President of the Broome RSL Sub-Branch.

Even the smallest RSL supports veterans

By Peter Aspinall

RSLWA’s Great Southern region currently contains 11 sub branches. Some are essentially one day a year sub branches in that the members only meet to plan, prepare and conduct the annual ANZAC commemorations.

The remaining sub branches vary from slightly more active in the number of commemorative services conducted to a very few that are very active and conduct regular meetings of members and also provide additional services such as day clubs, pension and welfare assistance and operate in conjunction with other organisations such as the TPI Association and Legacy.

Regardless the size and level of activity, every sub branch provides companionship, support, assistance and understanding from veterans who may be of earlier conflicts who, however, are genuinely concerned for those who have recently separated from whatever service and whatever theatre of conflict and whatever form of service given.

Many younger veterans may feel that they are not suffering from any particular condition or issue right now but circumstances can and do change as time passes.

It is then that older veterans will be there to be of whatever assistance is needed for those veterans and their families. Those older veterans are there in every sub branch, big and small.

* Peter Aspinall is President of the Albany RSL Sub-Branch and represents the Great Southern region on the State Executive.

Share your RSLWA news and views on facebook!
www.facebook.com/rslwahq
Local RSL gave ‘me my life back’

Continued from page 8

I began having a few medical troubles, felt constantly tired and I wouldn’t admit at the time I was depressed.

I wasn’t able to do my job as an infantryman and suffered harassment and bullying. This fuelled anxiety and a build-up of violence and rage.

I tried to tough it out but the pressure was too much and I was eventually sent home to receive proper treatment.

I’d been home two weeks when my section’s Bushmaster (vehicle) was hit by an IED. One of my friends was blinded. A year later the battalion deployed to Afghanistan where four mates were killed. These were people I knew well, knew their kids and fiancée.

After four funerals I had had enough of losing mates, so I sought to get out of the Army.

I felt guilty for being home; frustrated and angry but most of all shame. Those feelings continued when the boys came home and when I was declined for service in Afghanistan.

I was discharged on the 25 November 2010.

By early 2013 I needed help. I had no pride, felt cut-off from a lot of my mates and shut myself away from the world.

So on a Monday I walked into Cockburn RSL. The boys were out back after finishing a day of work. They took me in straight away and introduced me to other members.

It was easy to fit in.

After a few weeks I came out with some of my problems. One member worked for DVA and started to get paperwork sorted and gave me good advice.

There are many other members that I can relate to and unload my issues to if necessary. There are other support groups but the RSL is the one for me.

It’s time for a change says women’s champ

By Donna Prytulak

The Returned & Services League of WA has seen a lot of changes over the past 98 years – and it’s time for another one.

We must turn around the decline in the number of service and ex-service women joining the RSL and rebuild the Women’s Auxiliary. There are now only two regional auxiliaries. This is why on 23 August I will be chairing a state-wide Women’s Forum at ANZAC House - to discuss what women need to get out of the RSL and what it can do for them.

In my eight years as a member of the RSL I have met some wonderful women; women that I can learn from and women that I can call friends. I know that at any time I can call on them for help, advice or just have a chat. For many women, the RSL offers companionship, welfare, advocacy and somewhere to share both past and future problems they might face.

For information about the RSL Women’s Forum, please call ANZAC House on 9287 3799. For information about joining the RSL please contact Kathy Clark on 9287 3705 or check our website www.rslwahq.org.au

* Donna Prytulak is Secretary of the Northam RSL Women’s Auxiliary, President of the Northam Sub-Branch and State Executive representative for the Avon Region.

Channel 9 supports Veterans

For the first time, the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Kings Park was telecast live by Channel 9 and its affiliate, WIN, throughout the State.

Channel 9 also campaigned heavily in support of veterans in the month leading up to the service, providing free advertising and editorial support.

ABC Television again broadcast live the ANZAC Day Parade and morning service at the Supreme Court Gardens.

The West Australian provided weekly notices over two months of the ANZAC Day march and all other media outlets covered various events extensively.

JOIN THE RSL NOW

THERE ARE 130 SUB BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND ONE IS NEAR YOU.

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Check out our affordable travel insurance!

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Train to recreate WA journey

A commemorative train journey and memorial service will mark the centenary of the first Western Australian troops’ departure from Fremantle for Egypt and Gallipoli.

The event, organised by the State Government in cooperation with RSL WA and other organisations, will be held on Friday 31 October.

The train will recreate the journey taken from the training camp at Blackboy Hill in Greenmount to Fremantle Port.

The troops boarded two transport ships – the Ascanius (which carried the WA 11th Infantry Battalion) – and the Medic (WA 8th Field Artillery Battery, plus some South Australian troops) – which left Fremantle Port for Gage Roads on 31 October.

Escorts were provided by HMAS Pioneer and the Japanese warship HIJMS Ibuki. On 3 November, the ships joined up with the Albany convoy at sea.

A group of students will camp overnight at Blackboy Hill before marching part of the way along the trail following by the troops in 1914 and then boarding the train.

Military cadets will represent the Australian Defence Force and schoolchildren along the train journey will be given the opportunity to ‘wave off the troops’.

Indigenous Soldiers recognised

St George’s Cathedral is a treasure-house of memorials to those Western Australians who have served in the world conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

Yet, to date there has been no memorial to our Aboriginal soldiers of WWI, and this is to be rectified in NAIDOC Week this year.

Chris Thomas, an indigenous monumental mason, will create the memorial from Western Australian granite, mounted on marble.

At 5pm on Sunday 6 July the memorial will be dedicated by the Dean of Perth, the Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd, at St George’s Cathedral to the everlasting memory of those men who, without even the right to vote in their own country, nonetheless volunteered to fight overseas on its behalf.

RSL welfare comes to Phil’s aid in hard times

Former signalman Phil (43) has done it tough in recent years but he now has been offered a job and secured accommodation, thanks to The Returned & Services League of WA.

Phil, who served with the Royal Australian Signals Corp between 1988 and 1992, got caught in a poverty cycle after a relationship breakdown.

He became addicted to alcohol and amphetamines and lost his job and became homeless.

It was while staying with at Salvation Army emergency accommodation this year that a colleague suggested he try the RSL. With the help of welfare staff, Phil has now secured his accommodation and started in his new job as a security officer on 20 May. He was given rental assistance and other assistance for food and transport.

“Without the RSL’s help, I’d probably be on the street,” Phil said.

“I wasn’t even aware that help was available and had been through a period of couch surfing, sleeping in a car and roughing it a couple of times.”

* Phil’s surname has been removed to protect his privacy.
Honour those who were only 19 with the

**Veterans Remembered**

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We are keen to hear and publish your views about any issues of concern to you. Please try to keep letters to a maximum of 150 words.

Please forward Letters to the Editor of The Listening Post to: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au or write to The Editor of The Listening Post at PO Box 3023, East Perth WA 6892.

Kokoda Conundrum

Dear Editor,

There continues to be some confusion in the media over what to call that legendary jungle path between Port Moresby and Kokoda – a trail or a track.

When stationed in Papua New Guinea as a newsreel cameraman for Cinesound Movietone Productions between 1962 and 1967, my wife and I were privileged to be able to walk in the footsteps of our gallant soldiers for at least a small part of the track. I use that word purposely even though there was a crude sign at Owers Corner proclaiming it to be the Kokoda Trail.

This conundrum has confused respected authors, war historians and even army bureaucrats from the very end of the pacific campaign to this day. This was due to the influence of the post powerful communications tool in living memory – the motion picture. There were many international newsreel companies with cinematographers covering the Pacific action.

This contributed to most of the world including Australians and troops based in the Pacific being exposed to coverage of the Kokoda Campaign, but seen through the eyes of overseas newsreel editors for Gaumont and Pathe as well as the much larger American newsreel distribution arrangements of MGM, Paramount, Fox Movietone, Universal International and their affiliates which dominated the world cinema newsreel industry.

Because of this market control the Australian Cinesound News became a minor player in the field. With main cinema audiences being in the USA, most of who did not understand the word ‘track’, the local description ‘trail’ was substituted in nearly all the narratives.

It can be established that nearly all the soldiers who actually fought in the Owen Stanley’s referred to it as ‘the track’. Even legendary wartime cameraman Damien Parer who initially covered these events for the Australian Department of Information and later Paramount News referred to ‘the Track’ in his ‘dope sheets’.

These were descriptive shot information details for the editors and which accompanied his reels of films out of Port Moresby.

It is understandable that those officials who were not actually engaged in the fighting were only exposed to references to the area as the Kokoda trail in the cinemas and increasingly at official briefing sessions. This even resulted in the remote top Army brass and the Australian War Memorial proclaiming it as the ‘trail’. It is a proven concept that if an error is repeated often enough, it becomes the truth. This is what appears to have happened over the passing years.

As I am not a qualified historian, I can only suggest those who challenge my input seek confirmation from those remaining brave Diggers that traversed that sacred path. I am more than happy to be proved wrong in my interpretation of events.

Daryl Binning
Winthrop WA

ANZAC Club Tribute

Dear Editor,

As President of the Ex-Wrans Association I would like to pay tribute to the high quality of staff and service at the ANZAC Club over many years.

I realise that I will be repeating myself: the ease of arranging events, the consistently high standard of meals served by courteous, friendly staff, the provision of bar service, the ambience of the Gallipoli Room – and the Manager taking the time to ‘meet and greet’ diners: the ‘package of service’ both underscores the values of the RSL and guarantees a very pleasurable occasion.

Members always look forward to visiting the club.

Suzanne James
President Ex Wrans Association (WA)
People power at Port Kennedy

A highly motivated Port Kennedy RSL doubled its ANZAC Day turn-out to more than 5,000 people and enjoyed a full day of activity.

Nine staff, committee members and 47 volunteers joined forces to enable ANZAC Day to go off and it will go down as the biggest and most memorable event at the club so far.

Volunteers worked 10 hours and were still focused on making “next year better, we will do it this way...” which tells me that the soul of the club is not in the bricks and mortar that provides us shelter - but in the people who believe in the club.

Preparations for 2014 started in early May 2013 - reviewing the event and seeking comment from those that actually worked and attended the day. These points, which included ticket sale points, stock control and food preparation, were noted and formed an important part of the final preparations this year.

In March, ANZAC Day T-shirts and stubbie coolers were ordered ready for the day. Orders had already been placed for mobile refrigeration units, portable lighting towers, portable toilets, outside service points (bars), a soft drink caravan and marquees.

External groups were coordinated: Scouts for sausage sizzle, ring master for Two-Up, extended license requirements and entertainment. Forecasts went in for the Gunfire breakfast, kitchen food, ice and the hardest to forecast - the alcohol.

Our Gunfire breakfast went off without a hitch with more than 350 meals prepared. Attendees ranged from young children and their grandparents to motorcycle clubs and sporting groups. The Rockingham march kicked off at 10.20am with one of the largest attendances in recent years. Afterwards, service people went back to Port Kennedy RSL, Rockingham RSL, the Naval Association or the TPDV Club.

Historically, after the service, people disperse to their club of choice and then eventually go to the Port Kennedy RSL to catch up and see the day out - and 2014 was no exception.

Proceedings were wound up at 11pm and we were able to say farewell to ANZAC Day 2014 and look to 2015.

My hat goes off to the dedicated team of staff and volunteers that tirelessly support the club and make events like this achievable.

Tammy Robeson
Club Manager
Almost 15,000 Rockingham residents found themselves travelling back in time and hitting the shores of Gallipoli as vintage images were displayed on huge screens at their Dawn Service. The images were choreographed with machine gun fire and whistles piercing the morning darkness.

Mr Mick Ryan, President of the City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch, detailed why men meet on this day every year and how they share a bond with their fellow servicemen that only they can know.

The Last Post and Piper’s Lament were performed from a mobile stage six metres above the memorial.

The march was led by 92 year-old Ted Properjohn, who served in the skies over PNG in WWII while his wife Phyl served as a dental orderly in Melbourne.

MC Major Lyndon Jackson reminded residents what it was like 100 years ago as men from the Rockingham district set off for the Great War.

This year, the service included a scripted chat between a grandfather (Mr Mick Ryan) and 12 year-old Lucas Robertson about what ANZAC Day meant to each of them. This was a huge success.

Major Lyndon Jackson
Vice President
Didgeridoo and choir feature at Ellenbrook

Ellenbrook Sub-Branch’s Dawn Service went like clockwork and featured choir singing, Jeremy Garlett’s didgeridoo playing and Andrea Taylor’s moving rendition of “The Band Played Waltzing Matilda”.

More than 1,500 people, mainly in family groups, attended and President Stephen O’Neil congratulated members for their massive effort.

Dr Neil MacNeill
Secretary

Gosnells

At Gosnells, the ANZAC service was well attended by 1,500 to 2,000 people. It was led by younger veterans. The Langford Aboriginal community laid a wreath remembering the indigenous members of the services who gave their lives in the wars. The service was broadcast live on Heritage FM and feedback from the station was that it was a very moving service. A big thank you goes to Mrs Jill Armstrong, Mrs Gaye Fox (from Melbourne) and family as well as the young men who sang the New Zealand national anthem in Maori and English. Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Fox and families joined in a very moving retiring song, Homefront.

Harry Rosielle
Secretary

Bakers Hill

At Bakers Hill, about 250 people attended the service at the Hooper Park Memorial.

Eastern Hills High head girl Miera Borstel played The Last Post, with Carolee Lewis and Vanda Moore providing the music and vocals for the national anthems. The flypast concluded an excellent service. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a drink and light refreshments at the Bakers Hill Golf/Tennis Club, where the RSL holds monthly meetings.

Lin Booth
Secretary/Treasurer

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This Bond comes from a deep appreciation of what service means and the events service men and women experience together.

This Bond stretches back to Gallipoli, continues to the present and into the future.

Visit www.thebond.org.au dedicated to that Bond and to ensuring the ANZAC spirit lives on.
**Vigil precedes Scarborough ceremonies**

The 1st Wembley Downs Scout Group held a Dawn to Dusk Vigil at our Memorial Monument in Scarborough RSL Memorial Garden from 6pm on 24 April to 6am on 25 April.

At 3pm on ANZAC Day members of above scout group performed a modified Catafalque Party drill and stood in position at our memorial for the ceremony.

Following some solemn and patriotic hymn singing wreaths were laid by representatives of service, sub-branch, bowling club, three levels of Government, plus scouts, guides and the public.

Between the sounding of The Last Post and Reveille by a very capable bugler, The Ode was recited by our Master of Ceremonies. Then a spirited and meaningful address was delivered by our sub branch President.

A young lady recited a local poem “The Digger from Dumbleyung” which was enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Both the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems were played and sung, and following a closing prayer by the Chaplain of Hale School, the Ceremony closed and a good proportion of attendees retired to the adjoining Bowling Club premises for afternoon tea.

We received additional help from Scout Group with Flag Attendance and program distribution.

**Pt Hedland residents urged to remember**

More than 1,000 attended the very moving Port Hedland Dawn Service on ANZAC Day.

The guest speaker was Captain Daniel Reilly RAN (pictured with long-time resident of Port Hedland and returned serviceman Mervyn Stanton) and members of 1 Squadron from the Pilbara Regiment provided a catafalque party.

Port Hedland Sub-Branch President Val Middleton invited all to remember the 10,000 casualties from Australia and New Zealand lost at Gallipoli.

Following the Dawn Service a Gunfire Breakfast was hosted at the Yacht Club in Port Hedland. Members and guests were invited to ANZAC House for breakfast.

**Nedlands embraces ANZACs**

The turnout at the Nedlands Sub-Branch ANZAC Day service of over 350 people showed clearly the enthusiasm of the Nedlands community in the honouring of the sacrifice of Australians in time war.

An excellent address was given by Mr Brenton Siggs. The choral contribution by the Nedlands Methodist Church choir and the “Last Post” rendered by Ben Moody brought the entire neighbourhood to a standstill. The sub branch received strong support from the Nedlands Council.

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Bunbury Sub-Branch members visit 31 schools

Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch put in a huge effort with huge crowds attending its ANZAC Day services and members visiting 31 schools and three community organisations for special ANZAC commemorative services.

The sub branch members spoke to about 9,000 students in total over a period of several weeks.

It has been a terrific experience, with two ex-servicewomen speaking at the school services for the first time.

Not to be outdone their husbands also participated!

Greg Campbell
Bunbury

Meaningful day for Lancelin

Gentle rain fell during the night so when the time came to muster at the memorial we didn’t expect the normal numbers. However, it was estimated that we had 400 – 500 in attendance.

Members busied themselves to put all in place for the start of the Dawn Service. At 6am the President called all to order and the short but meaningful service began. Many wreaths were laid from a variety of institutions with individuals honouring their passed relatives. The Lancelin members’ hard work in preparing their beautiful memorial was much appreciated and commented on by the public.

After the service, all were called to form up for the march to the Endeavour Tavern. On arriving at the Endeavour Tavern a Gunfire Breakfast was supplied by mine host John followed by two-up in the afternoon. Many quiet ales and stories were shared and enjoyed. Once again a memorable and meaningful day.

Norm Pearce
Secretary

City of Cockburn involves 1,500 students

This annual event was founded by RSL Life member Arthur Stanton in 2001 and over the years it has grown in popularity. This year we had a total 27 schools being represented by in excess of 1,500 students plus teachers taking part in the parade and service. RSL members escorted the schools in the parade.

The parade was led by Commander David Tietzel CSM RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS Arunta, and included this year, for the first time, the Scotch College Pipe Band which provided a great touch and music for the parade.

It took nearly 30 minutes to have all students assembled and seated, the RAN Catafalque Party from HMAS Arunta marched on through the crowd of students.

The schools were all from the Cockburn District and several from the Fremantle area. The crowd was the biggest we have had.

The students did all the readings, the ANZAC address was presented by Commander David Tietzel CSM RAN, the Youth ANZAC Address was presented by Caitlin Wilshin of Seton Catholic College.

The wreath laying was carried out by students from the participating schools with 27 wreaths being laid on the monument.

The songs and national anthems were sung by the Seton College Senior Choir and members were blown away by the renditions of the National Anthems, particularly the soloist who sang the New Zealand anthem in Maori (not bad for an Italian who learnt it in very short time) and she was then joined by the choir with the English version. This was followed by the Australian National Anthem which was equally spectacular.

After the service, fresh fruit and bottled water was distributed to all, compliments of Cockburn City Council. The schools were transported by Horizons West Bus Company, an excellent performance to have all schools assembled at the start point on time. We are all looking forward to ANZAC Day 2015 – which should be bigger and better.

We acknowledge the support and assistance of the Cockburn City Council which helps to make this event so successful.

Arthur J Stanton
RSL Ceremonial Advisor
Our ANZAC Day Service commenced at 5.45am with a short street march to the RSL Hall. The service followed at 6am with MC Mr Mel Regeling, President Ms Debra Jacks and Senior Vice President Mr Andy Britton.

The crowd was estimated at over 700, our biggest attendance in recent years.

Representatives from the squadrons at the RAAF Base Pearce, State Women's Auxiliary, The Royal Singapore Air Force, Electorate of Swan Hills, City of Swan, Veteran's Care, Bullsbrook Air Scouts, Volunteer Fire Brigade and St John's Ambulance as well as members of the public, laid wreaths.

Also attending were visiting air crews from the USA, Korea, Japan and other RAAF Bases, who were involved in the search for the missing Malaysian plane off the coast of WA.

After the service a Gunfire Breakfast was served. We were very grateful for the help of Geoff Mawdsley and Sherron Marshall from Transfield Services at the RAAF Base, who cooked the meal for around 650.

Club members helped with the serving and the clean-up. Members and visitors enjoyed card games, Two-Up and a lunch of pea and ham soup and Irish stew during the day as well as socialising with mates.

We look forward to an even bigger event next year for the Centenary of ANZAC Day.

Penny de Grussa
Secretary

Visiting air crews didn’t the only ones enjoying the food.

In the pre-dawn gloom over 80 people gathered under cloudy skies to the sounds of kookaburras and small birds in the trees surrounding Memorial Park to remember and pay tribute to the servicemen and women who have fought and died for their country. One could almost sense their presence as moonlight and starlight occasionally lit the park through breaks in the clouds.

There’s the line that goes, ‘the tumult and the shouting dies, the Captains and the Kings depart...’, now pausing for some reflection after a Dawn Service, Gunfire Breakfast and Memorial Service one realises what this country and its people are really all about.

A small community and a few good people with a lot of heart inspired a lot of others to share the reflections of both today (2014) and the last 99 years. One who immediately comes to mind is Jim White who for many years single-handedly kept the ANZAC Services going and maintained the Brookton RSL Sub-Branch.

The under 18s helped run a memorable ANZAC Day and their enthusiasm gave hope that we will indeed remember. We also acknowledge the Fire Brigade for providing post service morning tea; the Choral Society for leading the hymns and other songs adding their distinctive contribution to the Memorial Service; and the Girl Guides for their role in offering and handing out the traditional poppies and sprigs of rosemary.

Pastor Clem White of the Calvary Church provided an address that underscored the values and qualities of the ANZACs and Elder Arthur Slater led prayers at the Dawn Service. In the Memorial Service David Allington paid tribute to the late Norm Apthorpe, who had for many years filled the role of leading prayers. Amy and Toby Blechynden delivered a moving address in tribute to a great great great uncle, Sergeant Alick Blechynden, who died in action on 28 February 1917. Their address provided insights into his early life and the effects of his demise on the family.

Graham Wearne
President
‘Spice’ in Kambalda

In drizzling rain, returned servicemen and uniformed people assembled at the Cenotaph at 5:30am, along with about 200 people for Kambalda’s Dawn Service which started at 5.45am.

The President of the Kambalda Sub-Branch read an address which gave a very brief history of why ANZAC Day is held. Wreaths were laid followed by Tanya Fyfe playing the bugle during the Flag Ceremony.

Everybody adjourned to the Kambalda East Club for a traditional Gunfire Breakfast; snuggers in bread washed down with coffee which may have had a little ‘spice’ in it! At 10.30am, returned servicemen and uniformed people assembled at the old Fire Station. The parade arrived at the Cenotaph at 11am in front of about 100 people. The President of the sub branch read a brief history about troops leaving Albany in November 1914.

Two RAAF P9’s did a flyover of the Cenotaph at 11:15am. Pastor Bill Kirkland read a prayer for the Queen and a prayer of Remembrance. The flag ceremony then took place, with the Ode being said between Last Post and Reveille; and observation of one minute’s silence. Councillor Tracey Rathbone read the poem In Flanders Fields.

Returned servicemen and uniformed people then marched from the Cenotaph, where Senior Fireman Bevan Hamilton of the Kambalda Volunteer Fire Brigade, took the salute. The ladies from the Kambalda Oasis Family Church provided the singing, led by Helen Kirkland.

Allan Lindup
President

Sunset Service success

Continued from page 4

Trooper Porter and Pte Clark were the first affected by a change in RSL policy resulting in the names of all peacekeepers killed in action being honoured at the State War Memorial.

Families of both soldiers were invited to privately inspect the crypt where the names were inscribed and to then attend the Sunset Service.

For Pte Clark’s mother Avril, who campaigned for the recognition of peacekeepers who have died whilst serving their country, it was a significant achievement and particularly satisfying.

Of her son, she said, “He wasn’t in a war situation, but he was still wearing his uniform and losing your life while serving your country needs to be recognised.”

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

Become a MHPE volunteer. The Department of Veterans’ Affairs trains volunteers to assist their veteran peers in making healthy lifestyle choices.

Host a MHPE session. Why not arrange for your club, ex-service branch or support group to host a MHPE session? Volunteers can deliver a presentation to your group.

Talk to a volunteer. Discuss your own health and wellbeing with a volunteer.

For further information please contact the DVA MHPE Coordinator for your state or territory on 133 254 (metro) or 1800 555 254 (regional) or visit our website www.dva.gov.au/mhpe.htm
Crowds ‘astound’ Cockburn

The City of Cockburn Sub-Branch was astounded with the crowd numbers at its Dawn Service, with estimates filtering through of between 4,500 and 5,000 people.

Our activities commenced with the Senior Scouts from the Bibra Lake Scout Group forming the night vigil.

The RAN HMAS Stirling Catafalque Party accompanied by RSL member Grant O’Neil in period uniform, marched on to mount the monument with the daunting sound of the didgeridoo played by Adrian Tanner, Adrian’s grandfather and uncle, who served in World War II.

The Dawn Service preamble was read by Mayor Logan Howlett JP, followed by the ANZAC dedication read by RSL President Digger Cleak OAM.

The Dawn Service address was presented by Lieutenant Dredge RAN HMAS Stirling. After the closing of the service there was a Gunfire Breakfast of bacon and egg sandwiches in the Memorial Hall, as well as the Gunfire Breakfast at the sub branch.

Under beautiful autumn sunshine, the parade formed up in the RSL car park and started at 10am, led by parade commander Major Neil Foster and a contingent from Joint Logistics Unit (West).

They were followed by four veterans of Iraq, East Timor and Afghanistan. There were 70 RSL veterans followed by the Canning City Band, RSL Affiliates, Cadets, Scouts and Guides. The officer taking the salute was Commander Tim Mahoney RAN HMAS Stirling.

Around 2,500 people had assembled by the time the parade had assembled for the service. Once again the Catafalque Party was comprised of members of HMAS Stirling and again marched on to the sound of the didgeridoo.

As part of the service the First ANZAC Resolution was read by veteran of Iraq and East Timor Michael Osenbaugh and the Second ANZAC Resolution was read by Iraq and Afghanistan veteran Peter Tinley AM MLA. The ANZAC Day Address was delivered by Commander Tim Mahoney RAN HMAS Stirling. After the RAN Catafalque Party marched off, the HALO Indigenous Group came into the monument area with an Indigenous Spirit Dance to mark the closing of the service.

After the service the Cadets, Scouts, Guides and other youth participants were invited to the RSL BBQ area for a sausage sizzle and soft drink. At the same time many of the veterans took up the Mayor’s invitation for drinks in the Council Chambers.

By 1pm, 100 members and guests were seated for the ANZAC Luncheon, quite spoiled and served to their tables. Once again the ANZAC Day raffle was a huge success, giving us a boost in revenue, with all the prizes donated by local business.

Arthur J Stanton
RSL Ceremonial Advisor

Military Brotherhood impresses in Quinns Rocks

Some 4,000 local people swarmed through the gates in eerie silence to form up on the newly furbished grassed area for the Quinns Rocks RSL traditional Dawn Service.

The Coastal Scottish Pipe Band WA once again opened the service with the haunting sounds of the bagpipes breaking through the crisp morning air, Peter Moyes Anglican Community School Band and Choir graced us with stirring renditions of Hymns and Anthems. The 18 local schools were well represented with both students and parents alike.

Flight Lt’s Tony McDermott and Shane Kempton commemorated the 99th anniversary of ANZAC Day with a heartfelt ANZAC Day address that had the audience captivated. Both men are foundation members of the Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club who are the most recent additions to our sub branch family.

FTS RAAF Pearce arrived with military precision to deliver a startling low flyover and the unforgettable day saw the Gunfire breakfast serving some 600 faithful and of course the traditional Two Up game. Many stories were told and tears were shed, but one thing is for certain with turnouts like this growing each year those who gave their lives for our freedom will never be forgotten.

Doug Thorncroft
Secretary
Osborne Park delighted with increase

The Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day service was held at the sub branch premises at 129 Main St, Osborne Park.

Service personnel assembled and marched under the control of parade commander Norm Wells, ex Warrant Officer Class 2. Flag Bearers were Mr Dick Walsh, Mr Ted Guthrie and Mr Randal Fosbender.

About 350 people witnessed the march and took part in the service, with representatives from the City of Stirling, State MPs and local Scout Groups.

A ‘fly past’ by the Royal Aero Club preceded the commencement of the service which was followed by sub branch President Stephen Ibbotson delivering a welcome address.

A pianist and choir led the crowd in singing the ANZAC Day hymns and personal ANZAC Day reflections were delivered by a City of Stirling Councillor, State parliamentarian and representative from the scout groups.

Wreaths were laid by the sub branch President, dignitaries and members of the public.

A bugler played The Last Post and a reverent one minute silence was observed. The President then recited the Ode of Remembrance.

Following the singing of the national anthem the MC Mr George Vukman concluded the service and extended an invitation to all present to attend the Gunfire Breakfast.

The day was a great success and we were delighted with the increase in crowd numbers from previous years.

Sharon Ibbotson
Secretary

Mandurah service attracts 9,000

A record crowd in excess of 9,000 attended this year’s ANZAC Dawn Service in Mandurah.

The service was opened with Aboriginal musician George Walley’s welcome by traditional owners and playing of the didgeridoo. We also had the New Zealand National Anthem sung by a Kiwi singer and the Australian National Anthem, brilliantly sung by a young Mandurah Catholic College student, and accompanied by Voices in Harmony choir. The parade was led by the Mandurah cadets, HMAS Sirus Navy contingent, The Veterans, followed by the various service groups.

Barry Meakins
Senior Vice President

Positive feedback encourages team in Serpentine-Jarrahdale

Positive feedback and a very noticeable increase in crowd numbers to some 2,000 people was very encouraging for Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL.

The Dawn Service was again successful with the Byford Scouts, PCYC Police Rangers and the Guides making up the Catafalque party and performing those duties very well. The John Calvin Band provided the music along with a very talented member of the band playing The Last Post. No breakdowns occurred and the service went very smoothly.

The service was seen by all as a credit to the organisation and hard work put in by members of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Sub-Branch. The feedback was all positive and the sub branch offered due respect and significance to the day.

Once again I state in the strongest terms that the success was not only due to hard work, but also to the funding received from Lotterywest.

We are fast outgrowing the current venue and we hope a new venue can be provided for the 2015 Dawn Service. Progress is being made to provide a new park.

Robyn Malloy
Editor of ‘The Examiner’ newspaper
Perth’s spectacular ANZAC Day was the culmination of massive planning and support.

It was spectacular because of innovations like soft lighting of the State War Memorial, with strobe lights replicating the famous rising sun badge. It was possible only because of the solid support of Lotterywest and a myriad of other supporters and helpers.

It was also built towards through another innovation – Sunset Services held on five prior days at 5pm.

Like many of the innovations introduced in services around Western Australia for ANZAC Day – National Anthems, younger veterans parading at the head of marches, Aboriginal presentations – they became the highlight. In Perth, we owe a big thank-you to Lotterywest, City of Perth and staff, Kings Park and Botanical Gardens and their staff, Australian Defence Force, WA Police Service, St John Ambulance, The Salvation Army, SES & their volunteers, Transperth, Volunteering WA, 160 Volunteer Marshals Rovers, Scouts, Guides, ADF & St John Ambulance Cadets, Aaralyn Children’s Choir, Perth Modern School.
Alumni Singers and I Voci choir,
Musical Director Celia Christmass,
The Salvation Army Perth Fortress
Band, Bandmaster Chris Goff, Rotary
WA and Lions, Australia Post, WA
media and aAll of our contractors.

Duncan Warren chaired the RSLWA’s
committee coordinating Perth ANZAC
activities and he is a satisfied man.

“Everything went reasonably well,” he
said. “One of the success stories was
undoubtedly the addition of Sunset
Services at Kings Park on the five
days before ANZAC Day and we’ve
received very positive feedback. We
had other innovations with the State
War Memorial being lit softly against a
backdrop of ‘rising sun’ lights, national
anthems and direct TV coverage.

“There was generally much heavier
media coverage, with Channel 9 and
others getting involved. The organising
team, and Marija Jelavic in particular,
al so worked well to make things
happen. We had more volunteers
this year, some 160 supplied through
Volunteering WA, and they did a
fantastic job.”

Mr Warren said the learnings from
the day included the need for earlier
decision-making on all issues.
Eyes right! Northam salutes

Northam’s Dawn Service attracted a crowd of about 400 on a humid morning with the occasional spot of rain.

Bugler Luis Lim played the Last Post and Reveille and Geoff Scarterfield read the Ode. Most of those attending placed a poppy on the Memorial at the conclusion of the service. A Gunfire Breakfast attracted 180 people.

The mid-morning parade was led by several service persons from modern conflicts followed by a contingent of Naval personnel from HMAS Stirling, veterans and local Police and emergency services and schools. Six restored Army jeeps carried several veterans unable to march and Phil Sullivan of the Avon Valley 10th Light Horse Troop rode his horse dressed in original Light Horse equipment.

Cadets from 519 ACU acted as the flag party with a contingent in the parade. Geoff Scarterfield took the salute as the parade passed and Russell Couper was the Parade Marshall assisted by Ed Freeman-Smith and CUO Brett Ashman. The Combined Districts Concert Band marched providing the music.

Northam RSL President Donna Pultyulak welcomed everyone and the morning service began with a hymn and music played by the Combined Districts Concert Band. Students Britney Gorbig and Michelle Watson read quotes from soldiers at various points during the service.

George Pearson gave the ANZAC address and Luis Lim played the Last Post and Rouse.

Local tenor Don Moore sang both the Australian and New Zealand national anthems. Anglican Minister Judith Clay read a Prayer of Remembrance and the Lord’s Prayer.

Much positive feedback was received from members of the public giving confidence for the planning of the 100th ANZAC DAY for 2015.

Reg Stevens
Secretary

Tammin icon attends service

Tammin’s remaining WWII digger Graeme Fowler and his family gathered at Memorial Park along with about 100 people to observe ANZAC Day.

Mr Fowler was escorted from the retirement home in Kellerberrin for the occasion. He was joined by family members Fred and Leon and their families from Perth and daughter Rosina from Kukerin. Rod Stokes carried out the duties of MC with Carol Crane in charge of the PA system and music.

In her address, Glenice Batchelor said ANZAC Day was a day of remembrance and two significant events took place 100 years ago - the assembling of ships at Albany to carry thousands of young Australians and New Zealanders to the front, many never to return, and Australian submariners took command of their first submarine.

She also observed that another army received no medals and very little recognition - the Australian Women’s Land Army (AWLA).

With thousands of young men off fighting, the AWLA was formed in 1942 and at its height had 3421 members, many recruited from urban areas with little or no rural experience.

Women worked in dairying, fruit and vegetable production, pigs, poultry, sheep and wool and for 48 hours a week they were paid 30 shillings (three dollars) and were fitted with a uniform and working clothes.

Floral tributes were placed by representatives of the women of Tammin, the Salvation Army, Red Cross and by Scott Packham and Zoe Christison from the Tammin Primary School and many others.

A highlight of the day was the gun carrier which is being restored by Dennis Heppell which had been transported in by low loader for inspection by the gathering.

After the service those present enjoyed a tasty ‘Gunfire’ picnic brunch.

Lorraine Packham
Secretary

Victoria Park has busy year

Victoria Park Sub-Branch has had a very busy April, attending several school assemblies and nursing homes for ANZAC Day ceremonies and talks as well as our own sub branch ANZAC Eve service which went off extremely well and was keenly supported by the community.

Ours thanks go to the Town of Victoria Park for all their support and help. We had a great bunch of supporters and helpers on the day and would like to thank them immensely. It was great to see the youth of today getting involved and helping out as well. We need the support of younger in the years to come.

Thank you to all of you, Air Training Corp Cadets, Scouts, Girl Guides, and School Students - you did a remarkable job and did us proud.

We look forward to 2015 ANZAC Day with great expectation for the Centenary of the ANZACs, those who ingrained the spirit of mateship and sacrifice into our memories.

Jacquie Liddiard
Victoria Park
Bigger crowds than last year attended the Gascoyne RSL’s traditional Dawn and mid-morning services.

About 100 attended the Dawn Service and most joined us for the Gunfire Breakfast. This was followed by the march prior to the main service, a hot lunch, warm fellowship and cold beer.

It was heartening to see the number of organisations and individuals laying wreaths at the Dawn Service.

The march this year included RSL, Korean Vets, Naval Association, the Carnarvon Vietnamese Community, Police, Sea Rescue, St Johns, Scouts, Guides and quite a few others. Bruno Bacci carried some of the older veterans in his World War II Jeep and some of the less ambulatory veterans were transported in the recently acquired Gascoyne RSL bus.

Sandy McGinn, Gascoyne President, led the service, the prayers and hymns were conducted by Pastor John Tomkins, the Ode and poetry was read by Ed Garrett, Gascoyne Secretary Treasurer and the salute and address was taken and given by Mr Karl Brandenburg, Carnarvon Shire President.

E Troop provided the catafalque party and parade commander and The Last Post and Rouse was played by Mr Stuart Wall of the Carnarvon Community College, supported by the very professional school band.

Some 200 plus people attended the fellowship and lunch after the service and christened the new alfresco area at our clubrooms.

For our committee, it was a long but rewarding day starting at 3.30am and finishing well after ‘lights out’, followed by the usual clean-up duty on Saturday and Sunday.

Special thanks must go to Jillian and Gary Hornhardt who have been doing the cooking and serving for this function for years. They work tirelessly and voluntarily over many hours and it is particularly appreciated given that ANZAC Day is also Jill’s birthday.

Edward Garrett
Gascoyne

Wet weather eases for Jurien service

ANZAC Day dawned mild and overcast and luckily the predicted ‘isolated showers’ ceased by around 8.30am, enticing a record number of patrons to our beautiful seaside Memorial, located at Federation Park.

President of the Jurien Bay RSL (and local Police Sergeant) Mr Darren Slyn, led the march-on of veterans and members of the public.

Unfortunately, the RAAF catafalque party from RAAF Base Pearce Air was unable to attend country memorials this year, due to the large number of personnel involved in the search for the missing Malaysian Aircraft.

However, this did not detract from the professionalism of the occasion, due to the outstanding performance of the Jurien Bay Police Rangers and flag raising ceremonies, under the guidance of new Officer in Charge, Erin Giumfere.

As the MC for this years’ service, I believe we must have broken all attendance records and a dominant feature was the increased number of children and younger adults present.

Thanks to Bugler Mr Greg Johnson, who also gave a very moving ANZAC Day address. This was heralded at exactly the right moment, by the spectacular flyover of three jets from the RAAF Base Pearce, who flew in from the West over a silent and calm ocean, face on to the watching crowd.

As the MC for this years’ service, I believe we must have broken all attendance records and a dominant feature was the increased number of children and younger adults present.

The Jurien Bay CWA Choir added a new hymn to its repertoire, ‘Last Night I had the Strangest Dream’ for the service which moved many to tears as it was a very moving piece.

Barry Wilson
Secretary / Treasurer

2,000 muster at Yanchep Park

About 400 people attended the Yanchep/Two Rocks RSL Dawn Service with more than 200 staying to enjoy the Gunfire Breakfast.

The 11.30am service at the Yanchep National Park attracted around 2,000 people with invited guests and many young families attending.

A Royal Australian Air Force jet caught everyone’s attention as it did the fly past just before the Service. President Rolly Sweet gave a moving address which included excerpts from a diary which belonged to a member’s father, who was with the 7th Light Horse, at ANZAC Cove. Wreaths were laid by community groups.

The parade was led by younger veterans and included the naval cadets, junior sporting clubs, fire fighters and the police. Our thanks go to all who supported us so well this year.

Gladys Shave
Yanchep
The Dawesville Dawn Service was once again an outstanding success with an estimated attendance in excess of 2,000 men, women and children.

Many people paused to remember the fallen as the sun rose over the estuary.

Young children were handed a small gift at the conclusion of the service - a biro pen which depicted army, navy and airforce military scenes on its outer casing.

Later, at the Gunfire Breakfast, more than 350 cooked meals were served by a busy band of volunteer workers.

Those who were keen were given a dash of rum in their coffee.

The Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch wishes to thank sponsors who donated or subsidised the cost of foods for the breakfast and also the very many volunteers who made their time available to assist on the lead up to the day. Last but not least those workers on the day without whose support a successful day would not have been possible.

Special thanks go to the Port Bouvard Recreation and Sporting Club and Staff who provided the club premises for the Gunfire Breakfast also the liquid refreshments for the volunteers who stayed on to clean up and the enjoy fellowship over lunch.

Ron Golding
Vice President / Publicity Officer

Peaceful Bay Sub-Branch

Thanks given as sun rises

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Ron Golding
Vice President / Publicity Officer

Peaceful Bay

Peaceful Bay brings in 350

Under overcast skies a crowd of about 350 gathered at the memorial for the Dawn Service. The service was conducted by sub branch President, Joe Urquhart, and the ANZAC Day address was given by Tom Hollow.

Prayers were read by 11 year-old twins Lulu and Saul Harris, grandchildren of veteran Paul Harris. Wreaths were laid by local dignities. Following the service a wonderful Gunfire Breakfast prepared by our hard working ladies was enjoyed by all.

It was very encouraging to see many young ones at the service and a sprinkling of younger veterans.

T Hollow
Publicity/ Media Officer
Peaceful Bay Sub-Branch
Manjimup sets record

Manjimup RSL made front-page news with its impressive record attendance on ANZAC Day.

About 600 attended the Dawn Service and 1,000 at the main 11am service. President Rex Brown said it was overwhelming to see so many people attend.

“ANZAC Day is not merely a day, it is a spirit,” Mr Brown said in his Dawn Service speech. “The first Dawn Service in Albany was held in 1923 by a few local men and the tradition grew from there.”

Youngsters lead Toodyay march

Toodyay residents showed their support for the spirit of ANZAC by turning out in force for the Dawn Service, 11am Parade and Service.

This year’s services were led by our younger veterans who have seen service in Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our local Scout Troop maintained an overnight vigil at the War Memorial. This year’s service was enhanced by the services of Rowan Hunter who brought along a sound system so that the entire congregation could hear.

Toodyay District High School Cadets Maddison Armstrong and Clayton Dickson read out the Roll of Honour of all those Departed veterans who had a link with Toodyay and the surrounding district.

Some of the estimated 350 members of the community then attended the traditional Gunfire breakfast which was catered by the Toodyay Lions Club. The Parade started outside the Toodyay Memorial Hall in Stirling Terrace and marched to the Toodyay War Memorial in ANZAC Ave. This year’s Parade was led by Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch, with younger veterans from all three services filling the front files. They were followed by members of the community proudly wearing medals of their departed loved ones.

Then members of the Western Australian Police Force, Toodyay District High School Emergency Service Cadet Unit, Toodyay Fire and Rescue unit, a combined contingent of Bush Fire Brigades units, Country Women’s Association and bringing up the rear of the parade was the St John Ambulance Group. This parade was about 90 strong. Members of the community followed the parade to the Toodyay War Memorial for the main service.

The Congregation was addressed by Toodyay RSL President Mr John Clarke, Toodyay Shire President Cr David Dow, Sqn Ldr Jason Taylor and Reverend Father Giles said a few words and blessed the congregation.

John Crook
Secretary

Royal Australian Navy Capt Lilijana Bradley was the special guest at the commemorations and spoke about the impact of war, saying there had been too many conflicts in the 20th century and Australia was still paying the price.

Lou Kidd
Secretary / Treasurer
Kalamunda RSL held its traditional local ANZAC Day march on Saturday, 19 April. Although it was Easter Saturday and in the school holidays the turn-out was larger than anticipated and the numbers exceeded all expectations.

The Kalamunda Pipe District Band led the march in its usual immaculate style.

The commemorative address was given by Sgt Chris Barry of 7RAR. Chris, who is one of our members, has seen service in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, and is currently posted to Singleton. A huge thank-you to members and volunteers who helped prepare the Gunfire Breakfast, which was well received by all 250 who attended.

The commemorative address was given by Wing Commander (ret’d) Ron Magrath, AFC OAM, one of our members.

After the service concluded, we adjourned for light refreshments.

On ANZAC Day we held our Dawn Service at 6am followed by a Gunfire Breakfast. There was record turnout, estimated in excess of 3,000. An overnight vigil was conducted by the 1st Kalamunda Scout Group, and at the commencement of the service a catafalque party was mounted by sailors from HMAS Stirling, who did a ‘sterling’ job.

Doug Carpenter
Secretary

Lotterywest funds military displays in Pinjarra

Pinjarra RSL’s new military display shed was opened for everybody to visit on ANZAC Day and a number of visitors offered to donate items.

The display shed is a work in progress and will be greatly enhanced with the delivery of seven new display cabinets. The display cabinets were purchased from a recent funding grant of $14,413 from Lotterywest. The local Pinjarra Bendigo Bank also donated $3,530 to improve security at the display shed.

The sub branch drew an unexpectedly large crowd of 2,000 people to its Dawn Service at which President Mick O’Donnell mentioned the number of locals whose names appear on the WWI memorial and gave a brief summary of their service in the Australian Imperial Forces.

Some how breakfast organiser Barb Giles and the Women’s Auxiliary managed to serve up 300 full breakfasts. The Memorial Service attracted an estimated 3,000 people.

Sue O’Donnell
Secretary

Oliver Lovelle JP
President
Bindoon turns out in force

Once again the people of Bindoon and surrounding districts turned out in force to the grounds of the Chinkabee Sporting Complex to honour our servicemen and women in an ANZAC Day service organised by the local Progress Association.

For the third year in a row the service was well supported with around 400 people attending.

The service was led by Mark McKay who also delivered an address focusing on the Rats of Tobruk. Abbott John Herbert from New Norcia led the ANZAC Day prayer, Dennis Badcock read a poem and George Ferguson recited the Ode.

At the conclusion of the service attendees enjoyed a ‘light’ lunch catered for by the CWA in the Chinkabee Complex. The annual service was organised by Jan Stagbauer.

George Ferguson
Bindoon

Three Springs rain

For the first time in living memory it has rained on ANZAC morning in Three Springs.

An early call was made to move our ceremony indoors to the Community Hall. Most residents responded to the change of venue. Over 200 residents and visitors were in attendance.

As they do every year, the Geraldton sea cadets were in attendance under command of Lieutenant Anthony Desmond, commander of T.S. ‘Morrow’.

Lieutenant Desmond was also our guest speaker and enlightened us in the discipline and education of the cadets.

Sjoerd Boonstra
Three Springs

Mundaring commandeers car park

More than 2,000 attended the Mundaring ANZAC service. In fact the service has got so big that we had to commandeering a substantial area of the local car park to accommodate more seating and the afternoon tea served by the Red Cross and CWA ladies.

The march was the largest for some years and was once again led by the Kalamunda Pipe band.

Two members of the 10th Light Horse group also paraded in style. Veterans and Serving personnel, Scouts, Guides, Boys and Girls Brigades, Fire Brigade, St John’s and the Eastern Hills Senior High School (EHS HS) Cadet unit all participated in the march.

Isabella Bougault, a student of EHS HS, very ably played the Last Post and Reveille. The Head Boy and Girl from EHS HS gave an excellent oration of Dorothy MacKellar’s My Country. Cadets of the EHS HS excelled themselves in their flag pole duties and role in the catafalque party at the Obelisk.

The key address was given by Mr Frank Alban MLA, Swan Hills. RAAF Pilot Officer James Hill was the saluting officer and also gave an update of current Defence Force support around the globe.

Eric Smith JP
President

ANZAC spirit grows

Continued from page 7

Police estimated more than 40,000 attended the Dawn Service, more than 60,000 watched the parade and 7,000 went to the main service, where State President Graham Edwards spoke about the intangible “gift of the ANZACs and their successors”.

He said this is “not a gift you can unwrap, or price in a shop, or display on a mantelpiece, or wear, or play with, but it is a gift nevertheless”.

Mr Edwards said he challenged was whether today’s community upheld the values the ADF fought and died for: Duty above self, humanity above neglect, freedom above oppression, mateship above self-interest, courage above fear, compassion above disregard and love of country above apathy.

“Commemorations will begin this year, with the national focus falling on the 1 November centenary of the departure of the first convoy of more than 30 ships from Albany,” he said. “Events will also focus on the departure of our own Western Australian troops from Fremantle on 31 October.

“It will be a time to remember the sadness and heartache that was surely visited on every family in every city, every suburb, and every town in this country during that war which ripped the heart out of this young nation.

“It will be a time to ask if the values so dearly born of those sacrifices are values reflected in our community today. If the answer to that question is ‘no’ then we, as a community, should also ask ‘why not?’ and ‘what we should do to reinstate them?’

Joan Jolly
Bindoon

JOIN THE RSL NOW

Check our website at www.rslwhq.org.au or phone our Membership Officer Kathy Clark on 9287 3705 or email membership@rslwhq.org.au
Ataturk’s words recalled

The ANZAC Day Service conducted by the City of South Perth Sub-Branch was a full dress rehearsal for the 2015 centenary.

The Scouts and Guides from the Salter Point Sea Scout Troop mounted a vigil at the memorial in Memorial Gardens on the corner of South Terrace and Sandgate Street in South Perth.

They appreciated carrying on the tradition established many years ago, even though some were rained on during the night.

Members of 3 Squadron, The Pilbara Regiment, mounted a Catafalque party at the memorial at 7am as the Scouts on the Vigil stood down to join the dignitaries and ex servicemen to march to the service under the capable command of Greg Negus (5RAR First Tour Vietnam)

Wreaths were all in place by 7.15am when the master of Ceremonies, Kevin Trent, called Reverend Anita George of the Anglican Parish of Como - Manning to lead the Service. After her address Kevin called the first of the wreath layers forward. These included Wing Commmander Glenn Cridland of the RAAF, who served in Timore-Leste and represented the sub branch; Mr Peter Ramsay formerly of the New Zealand Infantry, who served in Vietnam; Mr Ozer Demirkan chairman of the Baris Education & Culture Foundation representing the Turkish community and Pastor Albert Knapp of the Honouring Indigenous War Graves Association.

Following the wreath laying Ashleigh Civiello played a lament.

Sub branch President Kevin Trent recited the Ode followed by Callum Hey of Wesley College who sounded the Last Post and after the Silence, Rouse.

During the two bugle calls the four flags were broken, the Australian, New Zealand, the Turkish and the flag of the first Australians.

The parade was addressed by Charlotte Harvey-Lissienko and Shreya Semant, a student from Penrhos College, speaking on ‘What ANZAC Day means to me’ and ‘The Value of Peace’.

This was followed by our guest Yusar Solak of the Damla College, who included these words written by Kamal Ataturk in 1934 in his speech:

“Heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and Mehmet’s to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours.

“You the mothers who sent their sons from far away countries wipe away your tears, your sons are now lying in our bosoms and are in peace.

After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.”

The ANZAC Day address was given by Commander Ian Cook RAN, during which he stressed the importance of support by the public for our servicemen, especially when deployed.

At the conclusion of the service, attended by 800 people, many adjourned to the City Hall for morning tea provided by the City of South Perth.

Kevin Trent
President

ANZAC spirit in Ellenbrook footy clash

The Ellenbrook RSL held the annual ANZAC Memorial Football Match at Coolamon Reserve Ellenbrook on the day after ANZAC Day.

The Ellenbrook Senior Football Club competed against the Kenwick Senior Football Club in the reserves and league grades. The third side played High Wycombe Senior Football Club.

There is no need to mention scores because all teams did their best to help each other meet the desired result in true ANZAC spirit. In reality, they were all winners.

Stephen O’Neil
President
Ellenbrook RSL Sub branch

- Everyone was a winner at the ANZAC Day footy clash.
Youngsters take lead in Gosnells

The Gosnells ANZAC service was well attended by 1,500 to 2,000 people. It was led by younger veterans. The Langford Aboriginal community laid a wreath remembering the indigenous members of the services who gave their lives in the wars.

The service was broadcast live on Heritage FM and feedback from the station was that it was a very moving service.

A big thanks to Mrs Jill Armstrong, Mrs Gaye Fox (from Melbourne) and family as well as the young men who sung the New Zealand National anthem in both Maori and English.

Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Fox and families joined in a very moving retiring song, ‘Homefront’.

Harry Rosielle
Secretary

Church provides helping hand

In preparation for ANZAC Day, more than 60 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Uniting Church collaborated to clean and polish the commemorative plaques of our fallen servicemen and women along the Honour Avenues in Kings Park. Mr Norman Manners of The Returned & Services League, who supervised the cleaning operation, said that the gathering was a welcome display of unity amongst religious faiths in the interest of community service and unique in the history of preparations for the ANZAC Day dawn service.

Equipped with buckets of water, brushes and rags, the gathering comprising mostly young adults representing 10 different nationalities, took most of the morning on 23 April to complete their task.

Many enjoyed the spirit of cooperation and camaraderie as well as validation of their efforts this year, which will mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Many volunteers expressed feelings of humility as they came to understand the sacrifice that has been made and is continually being made by those who serve our country.

Anouck Van Dyck
Well, how wrong we were...

We did not expect many people to turn out considering this year ANZAC Day created a long weekend, fell during the school holiday period, and followed straight after Easter. How wrong could we have been...

About 250 people attended the service at the Hooper Park Memorial in Bakers Hill.

Eastern Hills High School head girl Miera Borstel played The Last Post, with Carolee Lewis and Vanda Moore providing the music and vocals for the National Anthems.

The flypast at the end of the service concluded an excellent service. After the service everyone enjoyed a drink and light refreshments at the Bakers Hill Golf/Tennis Club, where the RSL holds monthly meetings. In all, it was an exciting and extremely well attended service.

Lin Booth
Secretary/Treasurer

Kondinin honours ANZACs

Kondinin RSL along with the Kondinin Shire provided the community with a 10.30am ANZAC service at the Kondinin War Memorial and Hall.

The service was attended by around 60 locals who came out to honour the ANZACs.

A small service was followed by a brunch for the community. The service also included a march and children participated for their family members.

The service was a success with many people giving up their time to honour those who fought for us.

Ashleigh Ray
Community Development Officer
Shire of Kondinin

• Bakers Hill Sub-Branch were proven wrong by the crowd that arrived on ANZAC Day.

• ANZAC Day 2014 was a special day at the Capel RSL Sub-Branch, with Bob Dening (President), Algy Hutton (91) and Algy’s Grandson Tim Hutton all attending.
English school tribute to ANZACs

A tradition which started sometime after the First World War sees children from the Sutton Veny CE Primary School children in Wiltshire, England, participate in a tribute to the ANZACs.

During the war Australian soldiers were billeted in camps near the village and New Zealand troops were on Salisbury Plain. Sutton Veny House served as a convalescent home.

Many soldiers and nurses died and were buried in the churchyard at St. John’s the Evangelist.

Since 1918, when a group of four school children went into the woods, picked wildflowers and placed them on the graves of newly buried Australian soldiers, pupils have laid posies by the headstones. On ANZAC day each year, a service is held in the churchyard or in the church. Australian and New Zealand army personnel attend this service and each child from the school places a posy on a war grave.

The participation of Sutton Veny School in the ANZAC Day ceremony continues to foster the relationship between members of the Australian and New Zealand forces and British society. This has developed strong overseas links with New Zealand and Australia.

Visitors, and relatives of those who died, frequently contact the school, or visit to share memories and gain information from the expanding range of resources. The school class names reflect and recognise the commitment to the ANZAC link.

There are 168 First World War graves in the Sutton Veny Australian War Cemetery which is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Of these, 144 are Australian including two nurses. What is especially sad is that many of these soldiers, so far from home, had survived the terrible conditions and slaughter on the battlefield only to die when they had returned to the safety of the quiet English village.

Many succumbed to their wounds while others were struck down by the Spanish flu pandemic which hit Sutton Veny in 1918.

On Remembrance Day poppies are sent by the Geraldton City RSL, at the suggestion of Mr Andy Hayward, the assistant treasurer of Geraldton RSL.

Each child lays a poppy on one of the war graves. This has a profound impact on the children’s empathy and cultural understanding.

It is a very moving service.

Thanks to Nicky Barnard, the Sutton Veny CE Primary School and the Warminster Journal.

Ken Morris
Publicity Officer, City of Geraldton RSL

ANZAC Club meets the 2014 challenge

ANZAC Day is always our most significant day at the ANZAC Club – and 2014 was no exception – proving challenging from sun-up to sun down.

Kitchens on both floors were on the go from 4am, serving the traditional Gunfire breakfast.

Throughout the day, the dining room was reserved for exclusive use of members only.

In the Gallipoli room, an ESO and members-only set lunch was served in a quiet and relaxed setting - all at regular club prices.

Members appreciated the special door passes provided when booking the lunch – which enabled them to by-pass the queues at the front doors with instant access past security.

As ever, the RSL provided an extra-large marquee in Irwin Street for bar services to handle the overflow crowds that present on the day. As usual, this service was packed to capacity, with members, ADF personnel and the public all taking advantage of the facility. The staff put on an amazing effort for the day – working from before sun up at a constant pace all day without break.

Volunteers were provided a dedicated marquee this year – providing space and facilities to allow these valued contributors to assemble and organise.

Matthew Holyday
ANZAC Club and House Manager
‘Rukus’ says we should thank our veterans regularly

Rockingham RSL member Annie ‘Rukus’ Collins has a family steeped in military service and sacrifice and she feels it deeply. She also has a history of favouring her mode of transport - a Harley Davidson 1690cc Ultra Classic trike.

She has taken it twice to the United States where she is also a Patriot Guard, a group started by Vietnam veterans which will form a guard of honour whenever requested.

So when the Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club recently did a charity ride from Brisbane to Perth – and back again – Annie didn’t think twice about travelling from Rockingham to Quinns Rocks to make them feel welcome.

“My grandfather was gassed in the First World War; my father was a German Prisoner of War,” she says. “My uncle was killed by a sniper in World War 2 and I’m a guardian of his medals. “As an adult I am grateful to all Diggers in the RSL who put their lives on the line for us.”

WELFARE ASSISTANCE

RSL WA Branch provides a full range of welfare services to the veteran community including allied, currently serving members and their dependents. Assistance is available with but not limited to the following areas:

- Emergency relief
- Advocacy
- Overseas Pension applications
- Crisis counselling to point of referral
- Financial assistance
- Referral to other services
- Home and Hospital visits
- General crisis assistance
- Prison visits/ Legal Support Group
  – Mr. Terry O’Neill 9440 6233

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence. Where possible it is best to arrange a face to face appointment with the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

For regional members assistances may be sought through the local sub branches.

Appointments are available Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm. Contact the Welfare Officer on 9287 3707 for further information.
In 2014, Wesfarmers celebrates its centenary. Since 1914, we have grown from a small Western Australian farmers’ co-operative into one of Australia’s biggest companies.

This year, our nation also marks 100 years since the first convoys set sail from Albany and Fremantle carrying Australian and New Zealand troops to World War 1, a defining event in our history.

A lot has changed over the past century but some things remain constant. The boldness, energy, courage, collaboration and sacrifice shown by the young people who left our shores in the very same year Wesfarmers was formed provides much for us to reflect on and aspire to today.

Wesfarmers salutes the thousands of Australian men and women who have served in military operations over the past century to defend our values and freedom. And as a small measure of our gratitude, we are proud to support the new National Anzac Centre at Albany, a permanent place of reflection on the Anzac spirit.
Daryl turns back clock for 50th wedding party

Daryl Binning is ‘turning back the clock’ in a 1960s-themed fun-filled celebration of his marriage 50 years ago.

On 27 May he is holding a reception at the RSL Hall in Foss Street, Bicton, which he wired as an apprentice electrician before being conscripted for National Service.

“Some of the people coming to the 50th include those who read out the telegrams, proposed a toast to bride and groom, and who removed the bride’s garter,” says Daryl.

“The 60’s themed event will include music by a band led by veteran Ray Taylor, who although in his eighties, still does local gigs with music of the era.

“Also invited is Norm Wrightson, who is now in his nineties. Norm was acknowledged as Perth’s leading dance band leader in the 50’s and 60’s playing at either Canterbury Court or the Embassy ballrooms.

Both Ron and Norm are in Wilma’s Prime Movers exercise class each week.”

Daryl worked in Papua New Guinea from 1962 as a cine-cameraman setting up the government’s film unit, and supplying news stories to Australian TV stations and Cinesound Movietone Productions for cinema newsreels.

Wilma was working in Perth at CBH as well as being Drum Major for the Perth Ladies Highland Pipe Band.

Greenbushes upgrades plaques

The Greenbushes Branch of the Returned & Services League is proposing to carry out an upgrade of tarnished brass plaques on the town’s war memorial and is seeking information from the public regarding any omissions or errors on the current plaques.

The group is also considering adding new categories to the plaques specifically for people in the Greenbushes region who have served in modern day conflicts such as peace keeping and active service post World War I and World War II, North Korea and Vietnam.

Greenbushes RSL President Ron Adair said each request would be considered on a case-by-case basis with a final decision and approval for addition of names to be made by the Greenbushes RSL. Mr Adair said the branch was keen to refurbish the plaques as some of the names were illegible due to scratches and tarnishing.

“Several years ago we had the plaques removed and sent away for professional cleaning however the result was not as good as we had hoped,” he said.

The group plans to install bronze plaques which will not tarnish and the project provided an opportunity for any errors or omissions to be corrected.

“Over the years we have had queries from people involved in conflicts other than World War I and World War II and we have decided to now consider these requests for inclusion on our memorial,” said Mr Adair.

The Greenbushes War Memorial was officially opened by then Prime Minister WM (Billy Hughes) in 1922 and is located on Blackwood Road adjacent to the District Hall within Thomson Park.

For further information contact the Secretary of the Greenbushes RSL on 0427 643 508 or by email gwalia1@iinet.net.au.

Debbie Walsh
Secretary

• Greenbushes RSL members (left to right) Ron Adair, Ray Mills, Barry Boyle and Pat Scallan are keen to hear from people with information about omissions, errors or additions to the Greenbushes War Memorial.
Korea MIA plaque unveiled in Pinjarra

More than 160 people attended a combined service held by the Pinjarra RSL on 23 March for the blessing of their newly renovated Rose Garden and the unveiling of a Korea Missing in Action plaque.

At the blessing of the Rose Garden service Les Giles explained the history behind the Rose Garden which was dedicated to Mr. Francie Paull, a local Pinjarra identity who served in WWI and WWII.

The Pinjarra RSL Chaplain, Sister Maureen, blessed the Rose Garden Lone Pine and the Korea Missing in Action Plaque.

The keynote address for the Korea – MIA Plaque service was given by the RSL State President, Mr Graham Edwards AM.

The plaque is one of 75 plaques across the nation and is just the second in Western Australia. It lists the 43 names of the servicemen who paid the supreme sacrifice during the Korean War with their bodies still on the battlefields to this day with no likelihood of being returned to Australia.

Narelle Litchfield from Chipper Funerals in Mandurah who sponsored the plaque gave a brief history of it during the service and unveiled the plaque with Korean War Veteran John Southorn. Mr Southorn will be going to Korea in June 2014 as part of a contingent sponsored by the Republic of Korea.

An honour guard was provided by the Kelmscott/Pinjarra 10th Lighthorse memorial troop.

Sue O’Donnell
Secretary

North Beach members impressed

Members of North Beach Sub-Branch visited the Army Museum in Fremantle in March and were impressed by the quality of the displays and the enthusiasm of the guides as they moved from the First World War trenches to the World War II battlefields and POW displays.

The Vietnam Veterans were then reminded of their service in the post 1945 section before moving on to the displays from more recent conflicts and Peace Keeping operations.

All agreed that the visit was worthwhile and encourage other members to pay a visit to the Army Museum. The Army Museum is located in the Artillery Barracks, Burt St Fremantle and is open to the public, Wednesday to Sunday 11am to 4pm.

Rob Sweet
Secretary
As part of their regional familiarisation visits the State President, Graham Edwards, and the CEO, Philip Orchard, reviewed a 2009 background report on the Coolgardie RSL building which was in a state of decline and had a low sub branch membership.

Mr Edwards and Mr Orchard gave a clear and strong commitment to the sub branch President that they would return and discuss options on the building before proceeding with any sale or divestment.

During late August 2013 Mr Orchard received an offer from interested Coolgardie locals to buy the building. They had a desire to restore and refurbish if their bid was successful and promised that the RSL would not be evicted.

As a result of these verbal bids Mr Orchard and Mr Edwards visited Coolgardie 15/16 September to discuss these ‘propositions’ from prospective purchasers and on completion to present the options available to the sub branch President as was our commitment to him in the earlier meeting in May. In summary, we received two verbal offers and as a result of these meetings and further discussion with the sub branch President, it became very apparent that the offer from Mr Chambers and Ms McGovern, owners of the Post Office, would be more than acceptable.

They were aware of the need to work with the local RSL members, State Registrar and Heritage architects’ to ensure the facade and history of the building and RSL in Coolgardie is protected.

In April 2014 Phil Chambers and Tina McGovern became the successful owners of the building with Ms McGovern becoming the new RSL sub branch secretary.

Membership has increased significantly and currently there are 30 members, the club is also in the best financial position it has been in for some years and attendance is growing every meeting.

This year the club had an ANZAC Day march and had an attendance of over 100 people with stories provided to both the Kalgoorlie Miner and the local paper the CoolRambler.
10th Light Horse remembers and looks to the future

Each year, during the lead up to ANZAC day, the famous 10th Light Horse uphold their long standing tradition of privately honouring those who have gone before them.

This year was particularly special as it is the unit’s 100th year of existence. 2014 has also brought the unit its latest mount, being the Australian Bushmaster (Protected Mobility Vehicle).

It is especially important during times of change to be able to draw upon a proud history and strong traditions to guide future endeavours.

This year’s Old Boy’s Parade, held on 6 April at Kings Park, again demonstrated the mutual significance that both past and present members provide for each other.

While present members honour the contributions made by those before them, past members ignite and inspire the passion required to continue to achieve the expected high levels of success. It is the esprit de corp of all members (past and present) that maintains the unit’s relevance and increases its capability.

As has been done many times before, 10th Light Horse is embracing the challenges of a constantly changing Army.

Although the comfort of tradition can sometimes hold groups back it is through activities such as these that previous success and lessons learnt are shared, understood, embellished and incorporated for future reference.

On the day, the Squadron’s Honorary Colonel Brigadier Phil White AM RFD, noted the unit’s substantial history and unique significance to the Australian ANZAC legend.

The third wave of the fateful charge at the Nek both cemented 10th Light Horse in military history and gave rise to the definition and synonymous imagery of the ANZAC spirit.

Whilst being our most famous action, the charge at the Nek is one of many moments in history that represent the commitment, professionalism and pride that members of the 10th continue to demonstrate.

Corporal Nathan Barton

Timor-Leste Veterans visit RSL WA

During ANZAC week, RSL WA hosted six veterans from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to Australia.

The objective of their visit was to learn from the RSL experiences on how it advocates on behalf of its members interests and included a presentation by the CEO and staff of RSLWA on background information into the organisation; its structure, governance and business operations.

They also received a presentation from Ms Kerry Forster, Department of Veteran Affairs, who gave an overview of Veteran affairs nationally.

They received a comprehensive tour of Kings Park with Mr Philip Skelton the previous Deputy Warden of the SWM.

The veterans also paid homage to those fallen by their participation in ANZAC Day. The Australian delegation was split into three groups of six with six visiting Western Australia, six visiting Victoria and six visiting New South Wales. On day two they visited the Victoria Park Sub-Branch where they were hosted by President Kelvin Liddiard and his committee. Kelvin presented an overview of the day to day activities of the sub branch as well as the administrative responsibilities required to achieve the aims of the League.
Churchlands school band promotes RSL badge

- Students of Churchlands Senior High School band proudly show off their new marching jackets in a picture with State RSL President Graham Edwards. The uniforms feature the famous RSL badge on the front pocket.

WOULD YOU LOVE OUR COMPANY?

We would certainly enjoy having yours!

JOIN THE RSL NOW

There are 130 sub branches throughout the State and one is near you.

Check our website at www.rslwahq.org.au or phone our Membership Officer Kathy Clark on 9287 3705 or email membership@rslwahq.org.au
Sudoku

Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid.

Solution on page 47

Across

1 __ A Small World...
4 Absent without leave
8 Blithe
12 Present
13 Footgear
14 Make over
15 Farming club (abbr.)
16 Clothing variant
17 Flat
18 Defeat by election
20 Weighted fishnet
21 Winter hazard
22 ___ fire
23 Decorative needle case
26 Promissory note
27 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
30 Next to last competitors
34 High-school club
35 Vase
36 Cold colour
37 ‘To the right!’
38 Slide on snow
40 Roll
43 Sweden
47 Travelled by car
48 Speak indistinctly
49 Foot extension
50 Healing plant
51 Former W. German capital
52 Devour
53 Cheer up
54 Omelette need
55 Car speed

Down

1 Information
2 Meat alternative
3 Spank
4 Association (abbr.)
5 Like snow
6 Slime
7 Downwind
8 Go!
9 Jacob’s son
10 A fox’s hole (2 words)
11 Terminated
19 Roman eight
20 Spirit
22 Snake
23 Sixth sense
24 Ball holder
25 Arbiter
26 Hotel
27 Sign language
28 Energy unit
29 South southeast
31 Fire maker
32 Wrath
33 Same cite as previous
37 Greece
38 Used playground equipment
39 Soft drink brand
40 Wind
41 Eyelet
42 Smell
43 Hit hard
44 Object
45 Borax
46 Hebrew 8th letter
48 South by east

Great value dining in the ANZAC Club bistro and discounted beverage ticket options when buying a meal.

FREE members’ self-serve tea or coffee facility all day.

ANZAC CLUB

28 ST GEORGE’S TERRACE, PERTH
Locating a friend

I am trying to locate a friend that I lost contact with a number of years ago when he was called up for national service to Vietnam. We were electrical apprentices together for O’Donnell Griffin in Belmont. He lived in Clovedale when he was called up (1968/1969) and on his return lived in Gosnells which was the last time I saw him. His name is Mike Kingsley but because of the years that have passed I find myself questioning myself if Kingsley was in fact his first name. If you have any suggestions regarding how I might try to locate a Vietnam Vet I would appreciate it. I have spent numerous years at the ANZAC march keeping a very keen eye.

Ray Moore: raydenaes@iinet.net.au

Missing Medal

My parents used to live in Busselton and their ashes are interned at the RSL wall. About four years ago, my mother’s house was broken into and amongst items stolen were my father’s WW2 medals. His name on the medals was William Patrick McCarthy (known as Bren). I would appreciate any help in locating these medals. Dad was involved in the RSL in both Coogee and Busselton. He worked helped those who were injured getting disability.

Cathryn Cavaney: rswahq@iinet.net.au

Peter McCurdie

We are looking for ex-ABRP Peter McCurdie who served in the RAN from 1961 to 1970. One of the ships he served on was HMAS Gascoyne.

I would appreciate an email if anyone knows where he may be contacted. Rex Cox who served with him in the Navy would like to make contact.

If you are able to assist with the following please contact:

Moss Lowe: moscharm1@bigpond.com

Museum seeks input

The Australian National Maritime Museum is developing a new structure called the Warships Pavilion, which will contain an experience for visitors before they board our navy vessels – HMAS Vampire, HMAS Onslow and HMAS Advance. The Warships Pavilion team has been trying to track down those individuals who served on board the vessels to see if they’re willing to share their story about life on board.

We are trying to get a picture of what it was like for those from all walks of life to serve on these vessels. To aid our project and help us uncover the stories behind the vessels, we would appreciate if you could take the time to answer a few questions at the following link: http://bit.ly/RANWarships

Sandra Sherwell: ksherwel@bigpond.net.au

Hon. Secretary

Terrence Francis Brennan

The RSL in Cairns has held a folder full of training and employment records for the following gentleman and wish to return them to himself or family, rather than discard them. However we have no way of contacting him. The details for the gentleman are below: Terrence Francis Brennan, R64173, Marine Engineering, Motor Mechanic

Nikki Watson: nikki@cairnsrsl.com.au

Poppies, poppies, poppies...

By Sharon Harford

Two ANZAC Centenary poppy projects are underway and we encourage you to be involved.

‘Poppies in the Sand’ is a community event co-ordinated by the Middleton Beach Group in Albany to commemorate the departure of the ANZAC contingent of around 30,000 troops from King George Sound on November 1st 1914.

Thirty thousand commemorative poppies will be made by volunteers and placed in the sand at Ellen Cove. These poppies are made from 10 cm square red plastic on 25cm stems of 20 gauge florists’ wire.

Kits, instruction and further information is available from: Nan Anderson, 9841 3201;

Pat Kerruish, 9842 2172; and Jane Mouritz on 0427 807 047.

‘5000 Poppies’ is a group based in Melbourne which is looking to place 20,000 fabric poppies in Federation Square in Melbourne for ANZAC Day 2015.

People from all over Australia are making knitted, crocheted and felt poppies. There are many groups already involved here in WA, including the Country Women’s Association, local councils and the Western Australian Fibre and Textile Association.

Our plan is to have the two projects join together so that all poppies go to Albany for the centenary in November 2014.

The fabric poppies will then be sent to Federation Square in Melbourne for ANZAC Day 2015 and will be returned from Melbourne to Perth for Remembrance Day 2015.

Come along and join us in making knitted and crocheted poppies to place on Middleton Beach in Albany for the Centenary.

Where: ANZAC House
Date: Friday 20 June
Time: 10.00am–4.00pm

Morning tea will be provided. Please bring along red wool, needles and hooks and any green and black buttons. Some wool will be provided and knitters will be on hand to help.

We thank Spotlight for providing the wool.

For further information and patterns for the poppies go to www.5000poppies.wordpress.com or contact Centenary Program Manager, Sharon Harford at RSL HQ on 9287 3706.
**Reunions & Services**

- **1RAR Group 65-66 Reunion**
  It's time for all the units of the 1RAR Group 65-66 to gather together again – the last reunion was back in 1991 in Townsville. The reunion program runs from Wednesday 22 October until Sunday 26 October 2014. We have had an outstanding response which already guarantees a very successful reunion. I want to ensure that as many former members as possible know about the reunion, I’d be extremely disappointed if afterwards someone told me they didn’t know it was on. At this time booking into the hotel is most important, be sure to mention that you are attending the 1RAR Group Reunion. You can book online.

  Please help us to spread the word by sharing this with your mates.

  If you have any questions or requests you can email at raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au

- **Remembrance Day Service**
  The Applecross RSL Sub-Branch will conduct a Remembrance Day Service at the City of Melville Memorial, Melville Civic Centre, adjacent to the Library. It will be held at 11am on Monday 11 November.

  Members of ex-service, Unit and Kindred Associations and members of the general public are invited to attend and lay a floral tribute should they wish. Attendees are requested to be assembled by 10.50am.

  Inquiries may be made to 9313 5649.

- **18 Aug 2014: Vietnam Veterans Day**
  This year’s Vietnam Veterans’ Day service will be the last held at the RAE Vietnam Memorial in the present School of Military Engineering (SME).

  We gather each year at the Memorial to not only remember the mates who did not return from the Vietnam War but also those from the more recent operations.

  For Engineers this will be the last time to experience the old SME “The Home of The Sapper”. In 2015 the SME and the Memorial will be relocated to their new home in the Holsworthy Military Precinct.

  The service will commence at 11am and will be followed by lunch, camaraderie and refreshments at $20 per head. All Sappers and fellow veterans of all conflicts are welcome to attend, but due to base security you must be registered to attend, so please drop us a line, send an E-mail or give us a call so we can get you on the list and keep you informed.

  E-mail to: vietmemorialcom@tpg.com.au

  Mail: PO Box 165, Moorebank NSW 1875

  Phone: John Pendergast on (02) 9730 1292 or Phil Hurren on (02) 9825 3213

  If attending please contact us now so we can make this one a truly memorable day.

- **Battle for Australia Day**
  The Applecross RSL will hold a short Commemorative Ceremony to mark Battle for Australia Day on Wednesday 3 September. It will be held at 11am at the City Memorial, Melville Civic Square, adjacent to the library.

  Members of Ex-Service, Unit and Kindred Associations and members of the general public are invited to attend and lay a floral tribute if they wish.

  Inquiries may be made on 9313 5649.

- **JR Reunion 2015**
  Many have asked “When is the next big JR reunion?” – So now we can tell all.

  The Tingira Australia Association, which was formed as a major outcome from the 50th JRTS Reunion in 2010, takes great pride and pleasure to announce the “JR Reunion 2015” which will take place from Monday 9 November to Sunday 15 November 2015 in Sydney.

  Please register your expression of interest today so we can make arrangements for all to be part of our reunion festivities in 2015.


- **HMAS Voyager Reunion**
  A reunion is being planned in Hong Kong to commemorate HMAS Voyagers 50th anniversary year and the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Cocos (HMAS Sydney/SS Emden) on 9 November 1914. The prime dates are 7 – 9 November 2014.

  There will be a meet and greet on the Friday 7 November followed by the main event the next day. On Sunday 9 November - the official 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Cocos - a service is to be held at the gravestones of Ernie Howes (ME) who is buried in the Happy Valley cemetery on Hong Kong Island.

  We are hoping to have the meet and greet and the main Saturday evening at the Harbour View resort on the Island nearby Wanchai/Central and Happy Valley.

  It will be a requirement of all attending to make their own passage to/from Hong Kong and arrange for accommodation however it will be necessary to confirm as soon as possible your intention to attend so that we are able to provide numbers for the main Saturday evening dinner.

  A couple of very nice memorabilia items will be available in a raffle as well as a couple of surprises in store for those attending.

  We have a framed canvas print of HMAS Voyager and a full brass scuttle, mirror inset and engraved with HMAS Voyager crest and Voyager profile.

  Les Sheehan

- **Vendetta Veterans Reunion**

  This is to inform you of our intention to have a National Reunion for all Vendetta Veterans. As the NSW branch will be organising the reunion we felt Port Macquarie was a perfect location as it offers first class venues all within walking distance of quality accommodation and caravan parks so there will be no need to drive.

  Your would be aware that we need to book venues well in advance and for this very reason I would ask you to put the above dates in your diaries now and please indicate via email or phone if you think you would be attending.

  **Proposed Itinerary:**

  Friday 11 September 2015: Meet and Greet Cocktail Party (early evening)

  Saturday 12 September 2015: Harbour cruise (afternoon), Official Dinner (evening)

  Sunday 13 September 2015: Sunday brunch and get together.

  We look forward to hearing from you all soon, so that a great reunion can be organised.

  Colin Hardie - colinhardie@optusnet.com.au

  President (NSW Branch) - Ph: 0416 250 242

  Steve Ruff - sruff@ingham.com.au

  (Secretary) Ph: 0434 145 428

  John (Jesse) James - jessejames_12@optusnet.com.au

  Treasurer - Ph: 0411 041 880.

**Notices**

- **16th Battalions’ Foundation Dinner**

  The 16th Battalions’ Foundation Dinner will be at The Bill Walker Room, Patersons Stadium, Subiaco on Thursday 21st August 2014 at 6.30pm. Mr Malcolm James McCusker AC CVO QC will present the Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration. For information and bookings, contact: Mary Goldthorpe on 9384 9105 or 0409 085 987 or mary.goldthorpe@yahoo.com.au

- **Christ Church Scholarship**

  The Old Boys’ Association Scholarship Trust will award the Arch Campbell Memorial scholarship to a boy entering Year 7 in 2015. This scholarship is open to all students who fit the required criteria and carries a value of 100 per cent of the school tuition fees and while subject to annual review, is tenable for the duration of a boy’s education at Christ Church. Applicants are considered on their ability to benefit from a Christ Church education and must clearly demonstrate financial need. Applicants are required to sit the scholarship examination and parents or guardians are required to provide evidence of financial need by submission of a Statutory Declaration of family income and other requested documents.

  For further enquiries, or should you need assistance with any aspect of the application, please contact Mr Andrew Baird on 9442 1528.

- **WWI Memorials book**

  A new limited-edition book ‘The men behind the names, the World War One Memorials of Northam, Western Australia’ has been written by Reg Stevens.

  It includes a foreword by Mark Donaldson VC.

  The book includes more than 300 photographs and provides details of more than 150 Northam men who died in World War I.

  The nominal roll suggests more than 600 men enlisted from Northam.

  The book provides details of all known men listed on Northam’s various World War I memorials.
Ken Doolan makes it special

Our tireless Northam Sub-Branch President Donna Prytulak had a dream of inviting the national RSL President Ken Doolan to visit Northam and talk to members.

“I was always told that if you have a dream – make it happen,” Donna said. “So at the State Congress in October, I just asked him to our Avon Forum and the next day he came back and said yes.”

Donna organised a forum inviting members of the Avon Valley Region, including Beverley, Toodyay, Northam, York, Bakers Hill and as far as Bencubbin along to attend.

“It was really good to see more than 30 people there on a Friday – everyone was happy that the national president was there and he got a lot out of the opportunity to talk about what’s happening at the national level.”

Mr Doolan told the forum that the RSL has 170,000 members nationally and that they were seeing growth in the membership base. He also said that they were amending their constitution to simplify the RSL structure to make it user friendly.

State President Graham Edwards talked about some of the key areas he has been working on and in particular the proposed changes to the structure of the State Executive Board going forward.

Peter King, Deputy Commissioner from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, gave an overview of their programs and Kathryn Lloyd also from DVA spoke with individual members after the forum.

Sharon Harford, Centenary Program Manager for the RSL WA, gave a presentation on the Centenary Programs.

Members were given the opportunity to have a chat with Mr Doolan, Mr King and Mr Edwards and were appreciative of the chance to do so.

Special thanks to Donna Prytulak for having the vision to organise this unique event and to the Women’s Auxiliary for providing the catering.

During his visit, he also visited Fairbridge, Pinjarra and Mandurah with Graham Edwards.

Enter your ‘Bond’ on a special Lotterywest ANZAC website

From the very beginning there has been a close link between the Lotteries Commission, now Lotterywest, and organisations helping returned servicemen and women.

One of the original clauses in the first Lotteries Commission Act in 1932 declared that lottery funds were “for the relief of former soldiers, sailors and nurses of His Majesty’s sea or land forces resident in the state”. In 1954 the Act was amended to include the air force.

On the 21 March 1933, the very first official state lottery in Western Australia was drawn and among the first grants were two for the welfare of returned service personnel and their families. One was grant of 50 pounds to the Soldiers Children Scholarship Trust and the other was 10 pounds to the Ex-Naval Men’s Association.

Since then, many grants have been made to The Returned & Services League as well as many other organisations such as Legacy and the Vietnam Veterans Association.

A number of years ago, Lotterywest offered a grant to the RSL to help with the logistics of the commemorative events associated with ANZAC Day. Lotterywest recognised that the RSL volunteers organising numerous services throughout Western Australia needed support.

Since then a grant has been made each year to help pay for the many costs in managing these events and hiring all the necessary equipment.

As the ANZAC Centenary approaches, Lotterywest has worked with the RSL to set aside a special budget to help make grants to community organisations wishing to record their stories or to hold special events.

A special website has been created in which stories of those who have served our country or been effected by family members or others who have served – can be shared. This website is called ‘The Bond’ and we are asking RSL members and their family members to share their stories on the website as the years of the Centenary unfold.

After the Centenary, this repository of stories will be given to the RSL as a contemporary collection of stories for future generations.

‘The Bond’ is intended as a way of capturing the powerful connections and enduring friendships that form between those who have and who continue to serve in theatres of war or peacekeeping efforts, and the people closest to them. Our very own Bellevue sub branch President Scott Rogers, a member of the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment (2001-2006) shared his story as part of this initiative.

His video can be viewed on The Bond website. We hope you will check it out and will tell your story of the ‘bond’ you have with your mates. Visit The Bond website www.thebond.org.au to share your story.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. 
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. 
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning. 
We will remember them. Lest we forget.
AMAZING SPIRIT

Hollywood has been serving our Veterans for over 70 years.